SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : I have an objection. The Minister should have come prepared with the answer. That is why I said that my question relates to part (a) of question. The Minister said that his Department has been receiving complaints of over-billing and my question was, how many complaints were received from Allahabad subscribers, to which he has not replied.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is something the Minister has to let you know later. He cannot give you the specific details about the number of complaints from Allahabad.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : My question was, how many complaints were received from the subscribers of Allahabad about excessive billing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think he will be able to give the details to you later.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : सभापति जी, अगर पार्ट "क" को माननीय सदस्य पढ़ें तो उसमें लिखा है: The question is : 'Whether it is a fact that there are common complaints of over-billing..... against MTNL." Sir, MTNL is functioning in Delhi and Bombay only. Allahabad does not come under MTNL.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Sir, we have heard complaints with regard to telephones. In many exchanges, the telephones go out of order. I know of cases where on a particular day, the telephone has gone out of order for 7 to 8 times. Sometimes, the telephone remains dead, and when we complain against it, the officials of the department say that it is because of the old machinery and old equipment. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there are any plans to convert these old exchanges and old equipments into computerised or other hi-tech exchanges to avoid these complaints.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Upgrading the technology in both the sectors—technical and computerisation—is an on-going process; it is a continuing process for the whole country. We have in the country around 45-50 computerised exchanges already and as I said, it is an on-going project in each sector of our communication system and if any hon. Member says that it is going slow in a particular area, I can have it checked up.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : I am talking of Gujarat and other talukas.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Luckily, Gujarat is doing very well in the matter of computerisation of the system and it is slightly better than many parts of the country.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : The solution of the problem of excess billing is possible only in electronic exchanges which are available in the main metropolitan cities. In most of the States, we do not have electronic exchanges and we have only manual exchanges and it is possible for the telephone staff to manipulate. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether in places where STD facility is available, the manual exchange would be converted into electronic exchange.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : As I said, it is an on-going process and we are trying our best. We are very keen that the whole country should be brought under electronic exchanges, and due to the Government policy of liberalisation, our department has been benefited to a great extent. Our production is increasing and this year we are likely to enhance it. I take the sense of the House that our service must improve. Every hon. Member has pointed out that we must improve our service. We will do our best to see that all these loopholes could be plugged and we are able to improve our service.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

Telecast of serials on Family Planning by Doordarshan

*103. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state : (a) Whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has undertaken telecast of some serials on family planning; and

(b) what is the number of serials made this year and whether any post telecast survey has been made by Doordarshan to study their impact ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) No Sir. However, Doordarshan regularly produces and telecasts programmes in various formats having inbuilt family planning message.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is rather a brief reply. What I expected was a detailed and comprehensive response. The soap opera concept of serials, if the hon. Minister would recall, was introduced in the country with one purpose only, namely, to spread the message of family planning. When the serials were introduced, it was because of the understanding that was arrived at between the Mexican TV and Doordarshan. The reason was, the Mexican TV had effectively spread the idea of family planning, using serials as a medium. That was the idea. May I know from the hon. Minister whether this concept has been given up totally ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : The concept was regarding serials which are episodes and telefilms. So far, no serials have been allowed as far as family planning is concerned. But we give 'spots' as we call them, or, 'quickies', as per the advice of the Department of Health or Education, as the case may be. At present, our thinking is that education, health and family planning should be dovetailed so that it becomes family welfare. Therefore, we do not have the concept of serials as a medium for spreading the message of family planning. What we are doing now is, as per the requirements given by the Department of Health or Education, we give 'spots' or small 'quickies' in order to spread the message of family planning.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : I hate to differ from the hon. Minister, but his knowledge of history is not as bright as I expected it to be. The historical background is that the serials were introduced only for the purpose of family planning. There was a written agreement between the Mexican TV and Doordarshan. Visits of delegations were exchanged. Two-three times, delegations from India went to Mexico, and their delegations came here. A comprehensive scheme was worked out. That is where the idea of serials as a medium for the propagation of the idea of family planning was thought of. The Mexicans, ultimately, gave up because Doordarshan was considering serials only as a means of entertainment. The soap opera concept was accepted only because of its merits in terms of family planning. Unfortunately, our family planning programme is not making as much progress as it should have. I am surprised to hear from the hon. Minister that the concept of soap opera as a medium for propagation of the message of family planning is irrelevant.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Probably I could not explain it to the hon. Member. I would like to invite his attention to part (a) of his question. He has asked : 'whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has undertaken telecast of some serials on family planning'. We have no such concept of serials—10 or 13 episodes; usually—as a means of spreading the family planning message.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : No.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : But we are giving some programmes which give the message of family planning.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Serials were conceived as serials. It is not that I do not know what a serial is. A serial consists of 10 episodes, 13 episodes, or 52 episodes. What I am pointing out here is that the agreement with the Mexican TV was for serials and the Mexican concept was concerning serials as a medium for this. That is why the first serial was also adopted. Otherwise, soap opera, by itself, is neither aesthetically good nor good in our context. Therefore, unless

you go back on it, unless you decide that this agreement is nullified, unless the Government of India believes that serials cannot be a medium in this regard, it is relevant. I may this because, through serials, there is a continuous propagation of the idea. A family is shown. It undergoes some experience, whether good or bad. That was the idea.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : I have no knowledge of any agreement with the Mexican TV. But I will find out and let the hon. Member know.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Gujral, your two supplementaries are over.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : All right.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister can say what is the impact of the 'quickies'.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, The impact of the 'quickies', as reported by our research unit, is quite good. The message is going to the people, as far as possible. But I think we need to do a little more. The problem is this. We get sometimes objections regarding this from some guardians and social thinkers.

But we have to find a golden mean to carry this message. In order to tackle this problem we have to go headlong. Otherwise, it will create problems as we are facing now. So we are trying to find a golden mean between the objections raised by social thinkers and some guardians and some people who think that the message must clearly go home.

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question is not directly related to this question, yet I will fail in my duty if I do not speak in this House about the news carried in newspapers about Lord Jagannath. Sir, Lord Jagannath is not Lord worshipped in Orissa only, He is worshipped throughout India and He is the symbol of *dharma sangraha*. Recently there was a resport in newspapers and also on electronic media that a stone had fallen into the sanctum sanctorum, Garbha Graha, while the deities were being removed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the question about ?

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS : I have not completed my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please complete the question.

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS : Garbha Graha deities were being replaced when a stone came from the temple. This has been categorically denied by the temple administration and also by the main priest of that temple. I would request the Minister to take action against those persons who are carrying this sort of news because....

MR. CHAIRMAN : What has it got to do with the family planning ?

AN HON. MEMBER : Garbha Graha means it has got some relation with family planning.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : She is saying something about Garbha Graha. So, it must have some relation with 'garbha'.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Lord Jagannath temple or its *sanctum sanctorum* (Garbha griha) has nothing to do with "conception" or with "garbha" or with family planning.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : माननीय सभापति, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहती हूं बिना तकनीकी शब्दों के फेरजाल में पड़े हुए कि आपके दूरदर्शन के जरिए परिवार कल्याण के नाम पर परिवार नियोजन को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए जो भी कार्यक्रम प्रचारित किए जाते हैं जिसे आप चाहें सीरियल कह दें या एपीसोड कह दें या स्लॉट कह दें, मैं इन तकनीकी फेरजाल में नहीं पड़ना चाहती, मैं सिर्फ यह जानना चाहती हूं कि जब आप परिवार नियोजन पर कार्यक्रम प्रचारित करते हैं विज्ञापनों के जरिये, संदेश के जरिए या किसी और जरिए तो क्या आपने कोई सर्वे करवाया है कि इसका हमारे समाज पर क्या मनोवैज्ञानिक प्रभाव पड़ता है ? मैं एक छोटा-सा उद्धरण देना चाहूंगी कि मैंने कलकत्ता दूरदर्शन से परिवार नियोजन पर प्रसारित

होने वाले एक संदेश को देखा, उसमें एक बाप अपने 7-8 बच्चों को देखकर इस तरह भागता है जैसे कि कोई दुश्मन उसका पीछा कर रहा हो। मंत्री महोदय से मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहती हूं कि कम-से-कम बच्चों को इतना अवांछनीय समझकर दूरदर्शन पर पेश न किया जाए। इसके लिए यह जरूरी है कि परिवार नियोजन पर जो भी कार्यक्रम प्रसारित किए जाते हैं, उनके मनोवैज्ञानिक प्रभाव और समाज पर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव को भी विचार में लिया जाए। उसके प्रभाव को देखे बिना परिवार नियोजन के हर स्लॉट को आप अनुमति दे देंगे तो उसका समाज पर बहुत ही घातक प्रभाव पड़ेगा। इससे जुड़ा हुआ मैं आपसे एक और सवाल पूछना चाहती हूं कि क्या परिवार नियोजन का सारा जिम्मा या सारा ठेका सिर्फ औरतों के लिए छोड़ दिया गया है ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please frame your question. (*Interruptions*). Will you please frame your question ?

SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : My question is whether he is making any assessment or not.

कु० गिरिजा व्यास : माननीय सभापति महोदय, जैसा कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने अभी कहा कि हमारे यहां पर पोस्ट टेली कास्ट सर्वे होता है और माननीय सदस्या ने इस बात की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया, जिसको मैंने अच्छी तरह से नोट कर लिया है कि मनोवैज्ञानिक प्रभाव का हम लोग सर्वे करें। हम अपने विभाग से कहेंगे कि मनोवैज्ञानिक सर्वे को भी इसमें इन्क्यूड किया जाना चाहिए। बहुत अच्छा उन्होंने इस पर विचार दिया, लेकिन माननीय सभापति महोदय, बहुत बार अभितृष्णा भी किसी चीज से भागने को प्रेरित करती है, आठ बच्चों की अभितृष्णा, हो सकता है कि नौवां बच्चा पैदा करने से रोके। वह भी शायद कभी कभी जरूरी होता है। माननीय सदस्या का यह कहना कि केवल स्त्रियों के लिए ही प्रचारित-प्रसारित किया जाता है, मेरा ख्याल है कि दूरदर्शन में पुरुष और स्त्री दोनों के लिए ही प्रयोग होना चाहिए, तो उसका प्रचार और प्रसार किया जाता है।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : आपने सर्वे किया है कि इतना प्रतिशत है पुरुषों के लिए और इतना प्रतिशत है औरतों के लिए ? क्या कभी आपने आकलन किया है ?

कु० गिरिजा व्यास : इसको नोट कर लेंगे, सर।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : सभापति जी, मंत्री जी अपने जवाब में बताया कि धारा वाहिक तो नहीं, लेकिन परिवार नियोजन संबंधित कई स्पोट दूरदर्शन पर प्रसारित किए जाते हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदया से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि रोज रात को हिन्दी समाचारों के बाद और हिन्दी धारावाहिक से पहले एक विज्ञापन परिवार नियोजन से संबंधित दिखाया जाता है और इस विज्ञापन में ज्यादातर गर्भ-निरोधक तरीकों की चर्चा की जाती है। मंत्री महोदया को यह अच्छी तरह पता होगा कि यह वह समय होता है, जिस समय पूरा का पूरा परिवार, समूचा परिवार इकट्ठे होकर दूरदर्शन के सामने बैठता है, बाप और बेटी, मां और बेटा, भाई और बहन, सब इकट्ठे होकर बैठते हैं उसी समय सिलसिला शुरू होता है गर्भ-निरोधक तरीकों की चर्चा का, तो उस समय इतनी एम्बरासमेंट होती है कि न वहां बैठते बनता है और न उठते ही बनता है, क्या आप उस विज्ञापन के स्वरूप को बदलने पर विचार करेंगी ? छोटा परिवार सुखी परिवार है, उसके सुखमय पहलू पर और उसकी महानता पर इसका दर्शाना करेंगी और उस समय गर्भ-निरोधक तरीकों की चर्चा बंद करेंगी ? वरना होता यह है कि किसी न किसी बहाने टी० वी० का स्विच ऑफ करने की तरफ लोग जाते हैं और उसका कोई प्रचार, प्रसार नहीं हो पाता। इस एम्बरासमेंट से क्या भारतीय परिवारों

को क्या बचाएंगी और क्या गर्भ-निरोधक तरीकों से जुड़ा हुआ जो विज्ञापन है उसके स्वरूप को बदलने की तरफ ध्यान देंगी ? यही मेरा सीधा सा सवाल है ।

कु० गिरिजा व्यास : माननीय सभापति महोदय, दुर्भाग्य से मैं माननीय सदस्य के प्रश्न का स्वागत करती हूं, लेकिन ···· **(व्यवधान)** ···

श्री पी० शिव शंकर : दुर्भाग्य से? ···

कु० गिरिजा व्यास : दुर्भाग्य कहें या सौभाग्य कहें ···· **(व्यवधान)** ···

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : She is welcoming my question !

कु० गिरिजा व्यास : मेरा दूसरा सेन्टेन्स, दुर्भाग्य कहें या सौभाग्य कहें कि हम बहुत बार ओढ़ी हुई नैतिकता में जीने की बात करते है । अब स्टार टी० वी० के माध्यम से खुला प्रचार-प्रसार किया जाता है । यहां मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहती हूं कि अब गर्भ निरोधक केवल छोटे परिवार के लिए नहीं है, एड्स का जितना खतरा बना हुआ है उसको देखते हुए भी आज की यह आवश्यकता हो गई है कि हम टीन-एजर्ज तक को इसकी शिक्षा दें । इसलिए अब हमें ओढ़ी हुई नैतिकता से अलग हटकर व्यावहारिकता पर आना पड़ेगा और निश्चित रूप से वह कार्यक्रम दिखाना पड़ेगा, जो स्कूल और कॉलेजों के लिए आवश्यक है । मैं माननीय सदस्या को यह जरूर आश्वस्त करना चाहती हूं ··· **(व्यवधान)** ···

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : आप पर भी पाश्चात्य का असर हो गया है, लगता है, जो टीन-एजर्ज को आप यह दिखाएंगी और बताएंगी । अगर आप उस एम्बरासमेंट को ओढ़ी हुई नैतिकता कहती हैं तो निश्चित रूप से आप पर पाश्चात्य सभ्यता का असर हो गया है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is answering the question. Please sit down.

कु० गिरिजा व्यास : फारमेट बदलने का जहां तक प्रश्न है, मैं दिखा लूंगी क्योंकि बहुत बार हम देख नहीं पाते हैं, यदि उसमें कोई गुंजाइश होगी तो जरूर बदल दिया जाएगा । लेकिन, अब जिस प्रकार से आप देख रहे हैं कि कल से 10 दिन का एडस का कार्यक्रम स्टार टी० वी० दिखा रहा है, दूसरे टी० वी० दिखा रहे हैं, ऐसी स्थिति में केवल दूरदर्शन से बीवेअर आफ ऑल दीज थिंग्स, यह करने से काम नहीं चलेगा, हमें व्यावहारिकता के धरातल पर आना पड़ेगा ।

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, just to add one thing, we take up this through the Department of Health. The Secretary of the Department of Health by his letter of 25th February 1992—again repeated on 8th October 1992—to my Secretary writes in the ultimate paragraph, "I request your intervention in this matter so that condom advertisements are accepted by Doordarshan and telecast between 7.00 p.m. and 9.50 p.m."—the reason being that their survey shows that if the publicity is too late, then it doesn't spread to the rural area at all, which is our real target area. Therefore, they are asking for this prime time. They have fixed it, Sir, for bringing about swifter decline in the birth rate. There is a need for popularizing contraceptives like Nirodh, oral pill, etc,. by creating awareness. The role of the TV media is such. Therefore, it is being given at prime time so that the target areas are reached properly.